

Selectmen's Meeting – April 27, 2009

Dr. Bowcock, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia were present.

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Osuch will meet with NER Construction at 8:00 a.m. on April 28, 2009 to review progress on the Town Hall Restoration Project.

Fairhaven's Economic Study Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. on April 28, 2009 at Town Hall.

Next meeting with Gerry Rooney to discuss plans for the May 7, 2009 dedication of the Captain Whitfield House is scheduled for April 28, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Precincts 1, 2 and 3 will meet at Hastings Middle School on April 28, 2009 and Precincts 4, 5 and 6 on April 29, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Work Force Development Meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on April 29, 2009 at Mattapoisett Library.

Mattapoisett River Valley Water District will meet at 6:00 p.m. on April 28, 2009.

Meeting with the Moderator to review Town Meeting Warrants is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on April 29, 2009 at Hastings Middle School.

Finance Committee will meet on April 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Next Hurricane Barrier Certification meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. at 1105 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford.

If the Town decides to contract with the State for Sealer of Weights and Measurers services, the contract would begin January 1, 2010.

The Council on Aging submitted a revised budget for FY 10. Salary and Wages were reduced to \$127,215.00 and Other Charges/Expenses reduced to \$300.00. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the revised budget. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Special Town Meeting Article #8, Acceptance of Statute, petitioned by the School Superintendent, was discussed. The article reads: "To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B: Section 18, "Medicare

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Extension Plans; Mandatory Transfer of Retirees”, or to take any other action relative thereto.” If this article is accepted, retirees over the age of 65, who have health insurance with the Town and entitled to Medicare, would be transferred to Medicare. The Board agreed that not enough information was provided to Town Meeting members on this article. Also, there would be no savings to the Town in FY 10. This article could be placed on a future Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Silvia motioned to reconsider the Board of Selectmen's recommendation for this article. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Silvia motioned to recommend indefinite postponement of this article. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Finance Committee will amend Special Town Meeting Article 15 – Amendment to Town By-Laws.

Mr. Murphy motioned to award the contract for the Main Street Roadway Improvement Project to Pavao Construction Co., Inc., 1892 County Street, Dighton, MA in the amount of \$491,599.50, which includes the base bid and Alternatives 1, 2 and 3. (See attached.) Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

POLICE CHIEF INTERVIEWS

Promotional examination results for one permanent full-time Police Chief were received from Civil Service. Names appearing on the list, in order of scores, were: Michael Myers, Donald Joseph and Michael Bouvier. All three signed as the willing to accept appointment. Dr. Bowcock stated this is the final interview and it will be held in open session, but not televised. Michael Bouvier and Michael Myers were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen and the Police Chief. Donald Joseph declined an interview. The Board stated they will announce their decision at the May 4, 2009 Selectmen's Meeting.

ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

Animal Control Officer Tiffany Tripp and Animal Shelter Volunteers were present. Dr. Bowcock stated this meeting was scheduled to discuss the Board's concerns with issues at the Shelter, involving the Animal Control Officer and volunteers. He stated Ms. Tripp is the appointed Animal Control Officer and she is in charge. The position has certain requirements and is part of public safety and law enforcement. Ms. Tripp said she likes working with and appreciates all the volunteers and they each bring something to the table. She will listen to their suggestions and ideas, but she is in charge of the shelter. They must abide by her rules and regulations. She stated the shelter is not a “no kill shelter” and she does not believe in hoarding animals. However, she tries to adopt out as many as possible. The animal has to be adoptable. She will not have a sick animal or an animal that is unpredictable with a tendency to nip or bite, put up for adoption. The animal could become a liability and she is responsible. She is also responsible for who goes in and out of the shelter. She has instructed volunteers not to let anyone in the shelter when she is not there. If anyone should get hurt, she is responsible. Volunteers

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were also asked not to answer the phone when she's not in the shelter. Ms. Tripp has one volunteer to answer the phones on Saturdays, during the hours when the shelter is open for adoptions and she is busy with the adoptions. Types of food were also discussed. Ms. Tripp made it very clear she does not want "wet" food given to the animals. Veterinarians have confirmed it is not healthy. Ms. Tripp stated it is frustrating to say the same things over and over, and some of the volunteers do not follow her rules. Discussion followed. The Board stated they appreciate the job Tiffany does and they don't want to lose her. It is hard to find a good person and this is basically a one person department. The Board appreciates all the volunteers and feels this is one of the best groups and hopes differences between the volunteers and Ms. Tripp can be worked out. She is in charge. She is the one that has to answer to the Board of Selectmen.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to discuss the Fire Union Contract, Fire Union Arbitration Agreement and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary